

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MAY 5, 2017

THE RESOURCE

Wendell is an intranet website "for judges by judges" that provides legal references and online training. The site is well-travelled, with over 70,000 visits by judges each year.

THE CHALLENGE

Over time, the amount of information on Wendell has grown considerably, as judges continuously review content and initiate the addition of helpful resources. However, constrained by a static HTML site with no search functionality, it became increasingly difficult for judges to quickly find the information for which they searched.

THE SOLUTION

Microsoft SharePoint offers a dynamic Content Management System (CMS) platform with many benefits:

- Dynamic content posting that does not require HTML coding
- Robust in-site search engine
- Clearly labeled "modified date" of all content to manage regular updating of information
- Dynamic calendar listing judicial training opportunities
- Granular user-level access permissions to share draft documents with a limited group
- Document collaboration for group authoring such as collaboratively updating a bench book
- Access from any device connected to the Internet
- Dynamic repository for links to external resources
- Ability for users to rate (star rating like Amazon) resources and provide user-generated content

PROGRESS

Wendell was transitioned to SharePoint in February 2017. The Wendell publications board, an existing committee of judges and attorneys, reviewed and refined the beta site for 3 months. On May 1st, the new Wendell site launched to the judiciary.

